

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: 62ND ECOSOC: DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3

REF: USUN 1348

1. DEPT HAS STUDIED TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ON WORLD
CONFERENCE WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO ALL MEMBERS OF WESTERN
GROUP BY DELEGATE OF SIERRA LEONE, WHO HAS ASKED FOR COMM-
ENTS.

2. DEPT AGREES WITH USUN'S OBSERVATION THAT DRAFT
AVOIDS SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH AROSE IN CONNECTION WITH
THE REPORT OF THE PREPCOM. IN FACT, IT OBVIOUSLY
REPRESENTS A DELIBERATE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE
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DRAFTERS TO ATTRACT AS BROAD SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE FROM
THE WESTERN GROUP THROUGH AVOIDANCE OF LANGUAGE WHICH
WOULD RAISE, DIRECTLY AT LEAST, THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE.

3. DEPT NOTES THAT CONFERENCE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA,
WHICH WOULD BE APPROVED BY DRAFT RESOLUTION, INCLUDES IN
ITEM 11(A) THE "FULL AND UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF

UNITED NATIONS DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ON RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION..." ETC. THIS IS THE SAME LANGUAGE

WHICH MADE GA RESOLUTION 31/78 ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE,
ADOPTED AT THE LAST GA, UNACCEPTABLE TO MOST WEO'S.
SINCE THE LANGUAGE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE DECADE
PROGRAM, PARA 13(A), ANNEXED TO GA RESOLUTION 3057,
DEPT RECOGNIZES THAT LANGUAGE IS PROBABLY NOT SUSCEPTIBLE
TO AMENDMENT AS A PART OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE CONFERENCE.

4. DEPT REQUESTS THAT MISSION RESPOND TO DELEGATE OF
SIERRA LEONE WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) DEPT FINDS LANGUAGE OF PARA 3K OF THE ECOSOC RESOLU-
TION AND PARA 6K OF THE RECOMMENDED GA RESOLUTION
CURIOUS IN ITS LIMITATION OF NGO OBSERVERS "ACCORDING
TO THEIR RECORD IN THE FIELD OF STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THEIR SPECIFIC CONTRIBU-
TIONS TO THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE." THE INTENT OF
SUCH LIMITATIVE LANGUAGE IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT COULD BE
READ AS BEING DIRECTED AT THOSE NGO'S WHO HAVE FOUND
DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DECADE PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF THE
ADOPTION OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION (RES. 3379).
APART FROM ITS SUBSTANTIVE THRUST, DEPT REGARDS LANGUAGE,
BECAUSE OF ITS SUBJECTIVE NATURE, ALMOST UNWORKABLE IN
PRACTICE AND WE WOULD DOUBT THAT THE CONFERENCE
ORGANIZERS, WHO WOULD RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM NGO'S TO
ATTEND THE CONFERENCE PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH, WOULD
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BE ABLE TO APPLY THIS LANGUAGE SO AS TO EXCLUDE PARTI-
CULAR NGO'S. IN FACT, THE LANGUAGE COULD ONLY BE
MISCHEVIOUS IN ITS EFFECT SINCE IT COULD BE USED AT THE
CONFERENCE BY SOME PARTICIPATING STATES TO RAISE
OBJECTION TO THE PRESENCE OF NGO'S WHO MAY HAVE INCURRED
THE DISPLEASURE OF THE OBJECTING STATE. FOR THE FORE-
GOING REASONS, MISSION SHOULD URGE THE DRAFTERS OF THE
RESOLUTION TO DELETE THE QUOTED LANGUAGE.

(B) IN THE FIRST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH OF THE RESOLUTION
RECOMMENDED FOR THE GA, DEPT MUCH PREFERS THE DELETION
OF THE LANGUAGE WHICH IS NOW IN BRACKETS, "ITS RELEVANT
RESOLUTIONS AND IN PARTICULAR." WE WOULD ALSO PREFER
THE DELETION OF THE REFERENCE TO GA RESOLUTION 31/78.
DEPT RECALLS THAT THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AT THE
LAST GA WITH A NUMBER OF WEO'S ABSTAINING (CANADA AND
ISRAEL VOTING AGAINST). THIS WAS BECAUSE OF THE INCLUSION
IN THAT RESOLUTION OF LANGUAGE QUOTED ABOVE WHICH NOW
APPEARS IN DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA (PARA 3 THIS TEL).

4. IN MAKING APPROACH TO THE DELEGATE OF SIERRA LEONE, MISSION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT CHANGES OF THE KIND SUGGESTED WOULD PERMIT US TO AVOID MAKING A STATEMENT ABOUT OUR INABILITY TO ENDORSE THE CONFERENCE AND SEEKING A VOTE SO THAT WE CAN DISASSOCIATE OURSELVES CLEARLY FROM THE RESOLUTION. NEVERTHELESS, MISSION SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT EVEN WITH CHANGES SUGGESTED WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSENSUS AND WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OUR POLICY OF NON-PARTICIPATION. AS LONG AS AGENDA CONTAINS OPEN-ENDED LANGUAGE QUOTED ABOVE WHICH COULD INVITE DISCUSSION OF UNGA RES 3379, WE CANNOT ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH CONFERENCE. HOPEFULLY, AS CONFERENCE NEARS, PRACTICAL WAYS WILL BE FOUND TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, IN RECOGNITION OF SINCERE EFFORT AFRICANS ARE MAKING WE ARE PREPARED, IF CHANGES MADE, NOT TO OBSTRUCT CONSENSUS BY OTHER MEMBERS OF ECOSOC.
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5. DEPT REQUESTS THAT USUN QUERY WEO'S AS TO GROUNDS UPON WHICH THEY ARE NOW ABLE TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE IN DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA WHICH THEY FOUND UNACCEPTABLE IN RESOLUTION 31/78. USUN SHOULD URGE THAT, BECAUSE OF THE INCLUSION OF THIS LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA, GROUNDS STILL EXIST FOR WEO'S TO REFRAIN FROM JOINING IN CONSENSUS. MISSION SHOULD POINT OUT TO WEO'S THAT BY REFUSING TO JOIN IN CONSENSUS WEO'S WOULD STAND BETTER CHANCE OF EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATING SATISFACTORY POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING BEFORE CONFERENCE FINALLY CONVENED BY UNGA NEXT FALL, WHICH WOULD MAXIMIZE CHANCES FOR AVOIDING ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE AT CONFERENCE. AS DEPT NOW SEES IT, IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE NEGOTIATION OF SUCH A SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING THAT EVENTUAL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE COULD BE ENVISIONED.
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